

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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S E C R E T SEOUL 5644

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, PINR, KS, US
SUBJ: ROK PRESENTATION AT 11TH SCM

REF: A) SEOUL 5492, B) STATE 82455, C) STATE 126110

1. DAO HAS OBTAINED COPY OF EARLY ROK POSITION PAPERS FOR THE 11TH SCM PLENARY SESSION COVERING ALL BUT THREE AREAS (THREAT ASSESSMENT, TROOP WITHDRAWAL, COMBINED COMMAND). THE FINAL VERSION HAS BEEN PROMISED TO US BY AN MND SOURCE FOR NEXT WEEK. THE PACKAGE IS DESCRIBED IN A MESSAGE WHICH WE HAVE RETRANSMITTED TO YOU.

2. AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY, AMONG THE ITEMS WHICH THE ROK APPARENTLY INTENDS TO ASK FOR ARE THE LANCE MISSILE, NON-NUCLEAR US SUBMARINES, PERMANENT STATIONING OF US NAVAL ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE UNITS AT P'OHANG, REINFORCEMENT OF CURRENT USAF COMBAT CAPABILITY AND AWAC SYSTEM, CO-PRODUCTION OF THE F-16, UPGRADING OF EXCHANGED DATA FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO SECRET IN THE R&D AREA, AND "A REALISTIC PLAN" TO UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT THE WARTIME RESUPPLY PLAN TESTED AT LOGEX-KII (1976). FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY COMMENTS:

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3. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY OVER THE PAST MONTHS FLATLY REJECTED ROK REQUESTS FOR THE LANCE MISSILE.

4. THE ROK HAS SHOWN PAST INTEREST IN US PARTICIPATION IN ITS SUBMARINE PROGRAM, AND THE PRE-SCM POSITION PAPER ON THE SUBJECT RECOMMENDED BEGINNING DISCUSSIONS IN THIS AREA BETWEEN USN AND ROKN. A ROK REQUEST FOR

CONVENTIONAL US EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS AN ENTREE TO COOPERATION IN SUBMARINE FORCE DEVELOPMENT, A SOURCE OF VISIBILITY AND CONTROL OF ROK'S USE OF SUBMARINE FORCES, AND A DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THEIR DEVELOPING PROCLIVITY FOR THIRD-COUNTRY PURCHASES IN THIS AREA.

5. THE PLACING OF AMERICAN P3C ASW UNITS AT P'OHANG HAS BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE PAST, AND IS PRESENTLY BEING RECONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECTED ACQUISITION OF AN INSULAR TARGET RANGE IN THE SEA OF JAPAN. UNC J-3 HAS NOT REACHED A DECISION YET ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND SUCH STATIONING, HOWEVER, AND COMING FROM THE ROK SIDE THIS IS SEFINITELY A NEW REQUEST AND ONE TO WHICH THEY ARE PROBABLY REALISTIC ENOUGH NOT TO EXPECT A DEFINITIVE ANSWER AT SAN DIEGO.

6. CO-PRODUCTION OF THE F-16 IS DEALT WITH IN REF A.

7. "REINFORCEMENT OF CURRENT USAF COMBAT CAPABILITY" APPARENTLY REFERS TO INCREASING OF AIRCRAFT/PILOT STRENGTH, SINCE DEVELOPMENT OF BASES IS DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE IN THE ROK PRESENTATION. NO SPECIFICS ARE OFFERED AS TO THE REINFORCEMENT DESIRED. THERE IS NO USAF (ROKAF) AWAC CAPABILITY IN KOREA; IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE ROK COULD INTEND TO ASK TO HAVE
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SUCH UNITS STATIONED HERE, RATHER THAN MERELY COMING ON PERIODIC DEPLOYMENT FROM JAPAN. THE POSITION PAPER ON AWACS, PARTICULARLY THE PORTIONS DEALING WITH KTACS INTERFACE, SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE DISCUSSION MATERIAL IN THIS AREA.

8. THE NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY COUNCIL (NDPC) RECENTLY UPGRADED THE LEVEL OF EXCHANGED R&D (CAT. 3) DATA TO SECRET, BUT UNDER NDPC RULES THE ROKG CANNOT BE MADE AWARE OF THIS (REF B AND CL. HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO APPRISE THEM AT THE SCM OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE REQUESTING THAT WHICH HAS IN FACT ALREADY BEEN GRANTED.

9. FINALLY, THE ROK SIDE EVIDENTLY INTENDS TO SUGGEST AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO ENGAGE IN JOING DEFENSE R&D PROJECTS. COOPERATION OF THIS TYPE IN FACT ALREADY EXISTS IN SUCH PRIVATE VENTURES AS JJMA'S DESIGN REVIEW OF THE KFX FRIGATE PROJECT AND EXTENSIVE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE ROKIT PROGRAM. THE ROK'S EVIDENTLY INTEND TO PROPOSE JOINT R&D VDNTURES IN AT LEAST FOUR AREAS: DEVELOPMENT OF A CLGP-TYPE LASER-GUIDED PROJECTILE,

PERHAPS WITH MARTIN-MARIETTA; THE KOREAN TANK-HUNTER PROJECT;
A HARBOR DEFENSE AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY PROJECT;
AN DEVELOPMENT OF A SHALLOW-WATER TORPEDO HOMING
DEVICE. REGARDLESS OF THE MERITS OF THESE SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS, AT LEAST THE FIRST TWO OF WHICH HAVE
BEEN THE OBJECT OF PAST RESERVATIONS, IT SHOULD
BE POSSIBLE TO POINT OUT TO THE ROK'S THAT COOPERATION
IS NOW A FACT AND DRAW THEM OUT ON ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS.
A GENERAL COVERING AGREEMENT ON JOINT DEFENSE R&D
PROJECTS, IF IT DID NOT COMPROMISE US PEROGATIVES IN
CONTROL OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND PRODUCT RETRANSFER,
COULD SERVE BOTH THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL INTERESTS
OF BOTH SIDES.

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